

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA  
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

No. SW(S) 77/2007/533,

Dated Shillong the 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2011

From; Smti. A. Nikhla, MCS,  
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,  
Social Welfare Department.

To,  
Dr. Yogesh Dube,  
Member,  
National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chanderlok Building,  
36 Janpath, New Delhi - 110001.

Sub: Proceedings of the meeting with the Member, National Commission  
for the Protection of Child Rights and officials held on 18.10.2011 in  
the Committee Room No. I, Yojana Bhawan, Shillong.

Sir,  
Please find enclosed herewith the Proceedings of the meeting held  
on 18.10.2011, duly approved by the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya for  
favour of your information.

Yours faithfully,

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,  
Social Welfare Department.

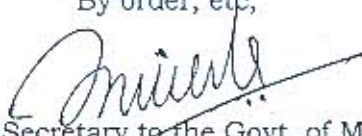
**Memo No. SW(S) 77/2007/533-A,**

**Dated Shillong the 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2011**

Copy to:-

✓ The Member Secretary, National Commission for the Protection of  
Child Rights, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi - 110001 for  
information

By order, etc,

  
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,  
Social Welfare Department.

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N.C.P.C.R.  
(C.R. UNIT) MS  
Dy. No. 28424/0128/11/11

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING WITH THE MEMBER, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS, AND OFFICIALS HELD ON 18.10.2011 IN THE  
COMMITTEE ROOM No. I, YOJANA BHAWAN, SHILLONG.**

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Members present – As at Annexure 1.

1. The meeting was chaired by Shri W.M.S.Pariat, IAS, Chief Secretary of Meghalaya. After a brief welcome address by the Chair and introduction of the members present, the Member, NCPCR, gave a broad outline of the issues that needed discussion.

The issue of Child Labour in Jaintia Hills evoked concern from the members in terms of the number of children reportedly employed in the coal mines of Jaintia Hills. The Member, NCPCR in addressing this concern, stated that figures reported by NGOs are not agreed to in-toto by the Commission. However, whatever be the number of children involved in coal mining-related activities, it can be inferred that child labour is present in Meghalaya, especially in the Jaintia Hills. Children out of school will be found engaged in child labour. It is the duty of the State Government to give quality food in Mid-day Meal Scheme to achieve its objectives that would also address the issue of Child Labour.

The Member, NCPCR also stated that reports of trafficking of children from neighbouring countries have raised serious concerns. This could be linked to middle-men who have a role in providing child labour for the coal mines. The other issue that needed attention was the condition of Children's Homes and Orphanages in the State. He felt that if the Homes and Orphanages fulfilled the requisite norms as stipulated in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2006, then those Homes and Orphanages should be registered. He also mentioned the need of active role by the existing Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards in the State. Further, Special Juvenile Police Units should appropriately address the child-related issues.

2. The Secretary, Labour Department informed the Member, NCPCR that there are instances of Child Labour across the State. However, it is more concentrated in Jaintia Hills and Khasi Hills. Recognizing that awareness needs to be created, sensitization has started in Jaintia Hills where a large number of coal mines are in operation. School teachers in Jaintia Hills District have been notified to help the Labour Department in detection and prosecution of child-labour cases. They have given a 'nil' report thus far in terms of the incidence and detection of child labour. However, the detection process is continuing. Recently, eight cases of child labour were registered in Jaintia Hills. Five of

those cases resulted in convictions with penalties of Rs.10,000/- each, having been imposed on the offenders. Non-Bailable Warrants of Arrest have been issued against the offenders in other cases, who have not been apprehended till date. He further informed that the State Government proposes to institute a comprehensive survey through an independent agency of repute to get a fresh assessment of child labour engaged in coal mining. For the purpose, the Department has written to the Tata Institute of Social Sciences for conducting an independent survey of child labour in Jaintia Hills. If considered necessary, the survey would extend to the rest of the State.

In order to strengthen and equip the Government machinery to effectively implement the Child Labour Act and other related Acts, more posts have been created in the Districts by the Labour Department. Computers and vehicles have also been procured for the officials and functionaries of the Department. Proposals under the National Child Labour Project have also been sent to the Govt. of India for consideration/sanction.

3. The Deputy Commissioner, Jaintia Hills District informed that of the 222 children found working in the coal mines of Jaintia Hills, 32 children were drop-outs. The Education Department has been requested to put them back into schools. Survey of child labour in Jaintia Hills by the District Administration is being continued.

4. The Director of School Education and Literacy informed that the 32 children rescued from the coal mines have been introduced to bridge courses, in an attempt to facilitate their mainstreaming and rehabilitation. The large number of floating population makes it difficult to track down the rest of their children. Out of 222 children found working in the coal mines, 15% are local children. The rest of the children who belong to the migrant population leave the State at the end of the coal-mining season and return when the season starts the following year.

He informed the members that the Right to Education has been notified and Rules have been framed under this Act. Enrolment drives/campaigns are also undertaken from time to time, under SSA.

5. The Member, NCPCR mentioned that there is a need to have an inter-State dialogue on the issue of trafficking of children and their employment in the coal mines. He also felt that the Government should come up with proposals to have more Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya schools. The Director of School Education and Literacy clarified that such schools are meant for Economically Backward Blocks. He also informed that the State Government is proposing to set up Residential Schools in each Block Headquarter.

On a query by the Member, NCPCR regarding the frequency of meetings of the District Committees, the Deputy Commissioner, Jaintia Hills District informed that the District Vigilance Committee frequently meets during the peak season of coal mining.

6. With regard to the policy of mining in the State, the Principal Secretary, Home Department stated that regulation of mining is difficult due to the land holding system and the traditional/customary practices. Though it cannot be denied that regulation of mining activities is needed, the land belongs to the people and for mining of minerals under the land, mining leases are not obtained by the land owners. In so far as regulation of mining practices, safety and health of workers, qualification and age of workers, etc. are concerned, these are governed by the Mines Act, which is administered by the Directorate General of Mines Safety - an organization under the Central Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India. The Member, NCPCR was of the view that the State Government can identify the areas to be monitored and take up the matter with Directorate General of Mines Safety. The NCPCR will help to facilitate such monitoring.

7. Regarding the constitution of the Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards, the Director of Social Welfare informed that Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards have been constituted in all the districts of the State. The Deputy Commissioners have also been requested to establish a separate cell in the Deputy Commissioners' offices for the purpose of identification of children going outside the State for education and preventing trafficking. Instructions have been issued for informing the Child Welfare Committees in all matters concerning students/children being taken out of the State for education. The Director, Social Welfare was asked to submit the report of the District Level Co-ordination Committee meetings on the migration of children from the State for education, to the Commission.

8. The Member, NCPCR, felt that there is a serious need for training of the members of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees with a view to sensitizing them to child-related issues. The Director, Social Welfare informed that the members are being nominated for training by the NIPCDD, Guwahati.

9. In the matter of Children's Homes and Orphanages, the Member, NCPCR, re-iterated the need to regulate NGOs, especially the ones who don't have licences. The Director of Social Welfare informed that all NGOs running Orphanages and Homes have been asked to register themselves; however, only fourteen NGOs have been registered so far. The

Member, NCPCR, suggested de-recognition of NGOs not conforming to norms laid down in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2006. He further urged the State Government to expedite the constitution of the State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, as it is mandatory.

10. The Member, NCPCR, raised the issue of middle-men in the transportation of children and their families for labour in the coal mines and elsewhere. He felt that without middle-men it is practically impossible to get families from their homes to work in coal depots and coal mines. He suggested that Check Posts should be set up at different places of entry into the State. The Inspector General of Police, CID, informed the Member, NCPCR, that there is no organized trafficking as such, to coal depots from other places. Infiltration Check Posts are already in place, and registration of workers who come from outside the State has been initiated under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

*sd/-*  
Shri W.M.S.Pariat, IAS,  
Chief Secretary.

**MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING WITH THE OFFICIALS OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS, HELD  
ON 18.10.2011 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM No. I, YOJANA.**

| Sl.No. | Name and Designation                                              | Signature |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1.     | Shri. W.M.S. Pariat, IAS, Chief Secretary                         | sd/-      |
| 2.     | Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member NCPDR                                     | sd/-      |
| 3.     | Dr. Ramanath Nongtdu, Sr. Consultant                              | sd/-      |
| 4.     | Shri. K.S. Kropcha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Home                | sd/-      |
| 5.     | Shri. J.P. Prakash, Principal Secretary, M.&G.                    | sd/-      |
| 6.     | Shri. K.L. Tariang, Secretary, Labour Deptt.                      | sd/-      |
| 7.     | Shri. C.C.M. Mihsil, IAS, Director of Social Welfare              | sd/-      |
| 8.     | Smti. L.N. Jyrwa, Additional Director of Social Welfare           | sd/-      |
| 9.     | Smti. A. Nikhla, MCS, Deputy Secretary, Social Welfare Department | sd/-      |

**MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA ON CHILD RIGHTS AT  
STATE SECRETARIAT, SHILLONG ON 18.10.2011 AT 10.00 A.M.**

| Sl.No. | Name & Designation                                                            | Signature |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1.     | B.R. Rana, I.G.P. CID                                                         | Sd/-      |
| 2.     | T. Dkhar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Jaintia Hills                             | Sd/-      |
| 3.     | Smti., L.R. Sangma, IAS, Secretary, Education.                                | Sd/-      |
| 4.     | Shri. J.D. Sangma, Director School Education & Literacy.                      | Sd/-      |
| 5.     | Smti. M.N. Nampui, MCS, Labour Commissioner                                   | Sd/-      |
| 6.     | Shri. K.C. Chyne, Joint Commissioner, Labour                                  | Sd/-      |
| 7.     | Shri. V. Syiem, Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) East Khasi Hills. | Sd/-      |
| 8.     | H.B. Sangma, Inspector, CID Organization, Shillong.                           | Sd/-      |
| 9.     | Smti. C.N. Marak, Assistant Director of Social Welfare.                       | Sd/-      |